

CLEAN VERSION
OF
SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

*Pursuant to Applicant's Preliminary Response and Amendment Accompanying
Continuation-in-Part ("CIP") Application, please enter the replacement
Specification attached hereto.*

Continuation-in-Part Application
Applicant : Gary Q. Teague
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For : UNIVERSAL TRAILER HITCH MIRROR SYSTEM
Examiner : Kevin Hurley
Art Unit : 3611

UNIVERSAL TRAILER HITCH MIRROR SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation-in-part of application number 09/923,823, filed 08/02/2001.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to mirrors for viewing trailer hitches on backs of tow vehicles while being backed into hookup position for hitching trailer vehicles to the tow vehicles.

Known trailer-hitch mirrors and mirror systems provide variously for mirror vision of trailer hitches for backing up tow vehicles to a hookup position in order to hitch trailer vehicles to the tow vehicles. None are known, however, to have an adjustable-angle mirror on a mirror holder having orientational attachment to an attachment configuration that can be situated universally on support objects for mirror-view positioning of a system mirror from either a rearview or a side-view vehicle mirror in a manner taught by this invention.

Examples of most-closely related known but different trailer-hitch mirrors are described in the following patent documents:

	<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
20	6,102,423	Beck, <i>et al.</i>	08/15/2000
	5,971,555	Wilcox, <i>et al.</i>	10/26/1999
	5,313,337	Byers	05/17/1994
	5,625,500	Ackerman	04/29/1997
	4,925,287	Lord, <i>et al.</i>	05/15/1990
	5,784,213	Howard	07/21/1998
25	4,905,376	Neeley	03/06/1990
	5,180,182	Haworth	01/19/1993
	5,657,175	Brewington	08/12/1997

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Objects of patentable novelty and utility taught by this invention are to provide a universal trailer-hitch mirror system which:

- 5 provides trailer-hitching view from an inside rearview mirror of cars and trucks having rear-window vision;
- provides trailer-hitching view through side-view mirrors of vehicles not having rear-window vision;
- 10 is quick and easy to position wherever most convenient, accessible and effective for mirror viewing of trailer-hitch components of tow vehicles and trailerable vehicles that are within hitching-steerable proximity;
- can be stored conveniently; and
- can be inexpensive and long lasting.

This invention accomplishes these and other objectives with a universal trailer-hitch mirror system with an attachment configuration having a plurality of suction cups a system fastener for fastening the attachment configuration to a support object that is accessible for support of a system mirror for mirror viewing of tow trailer-hitch components of a tow vehicle and trailerable trailer-hitch components of a trailerable vehicle with the tow vehicle being within hitching-steerable proximity to the trailerable vehicle. A mirror holder is attached orientationally to the attachment configuration with an orientation controller. The system mirror is attached orientationally to the mirror holder with a system-mirror joint. The attachment configuration is articulated to be positioned in desired proximity to rear components of the tow vehicle and to objects proximate thereto selectively. The system fastener is articulated predeterminedly to attach the attachment configuration to the support object selectively. The orientation controller is articulated to orient the mirror

holder controllably in a desired orientation of attachment to the attachment configuration. The system-mirror joint is articulated to orient the system mirror in a mirrored line of sight from a vehicle mirror to the tow trailer-hitch components and to the trailerable trailer-hitch components selectively.

5 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

10 This invention is described by appended claims in relation to description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a trailer hitch mirror system of the present invention which employs a plurality of suction cups as a system fastener;

15 FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the FIG. 1 illustration;

FIG. 3 is a side view of a station wagon or sport utility vehicle on a rear window of which the FIG. 2 illustration is positioned for mirror view through the vehicle from a rearview mirror;

20 FIG. 4 is a side view of a sedan motor vehicle on a rear trunk of which the FIG. 2 illustration is positioned for mirror view through the vehicle from the rearview mirror; and

FIG. 5 is a side view of a pickup truck on a rear tailgate of which the FIG. 2 illustration is positioned for mirror view through the vehicle from the rearview mirror.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 | 1. Attachment configuration | 8. System-mirror joint |
| | 2. Suction cup | 13. Back window |
| | 3. Tailgate hook | 14. Rearview mirror |
| | 4. Base | 16. Trunk top |
| | 5. Mirror holder | 17. Line of sight |
| 10 | 6. Orientation controller | 18. Tow components |
| | 7. System mirror | 19. Trailer components |

Referring to **FIGS. 1-2**, a universal trailer-hitch mirror system has an attachment configuration **1** with a system fastener that includes a plurality of suction cups **2**, a tailgate hook **3** and a base **4**. A mirror holder **5** is attached orientationally to the attachment configuration **1** with an orientation controller **6**. A system mirror **7** is attached orientationally to the mirror holder **5** selectively with a system-mirror joint **8**.

Referring to **FIGS. 1-5**, a support object to which the system fastener is attachable includes a back window of a tow vehicle in a vehicle class that includes a station wagon, a sports utility vehicle or other motor vehicle for which the back window **13** is situated near a back and through which there is rear vision from a vehicle mirror that is a rearview mirror **14** through the motor vehicle as shown in **FIG. 8**. The attachment configuration **1** for such class of vehicles includes suction cups **2** that is placed at the top of the back window **13**.

25 Similarly as shown in **FIG. 4**, the support object includes a trunk top **16** of a tow vehicle in a vehicle class that includes a sedan and a coupe.

For a pickup truck with rear view from the rearview mirror 14 as shown in FIG. 5, the system fastener can include the suction cups 2.

For the embodiments shown and described in relation to FIGS. 1, 2 and 3-5, there is a line of sight 17 from the rearview mirror 14 to the system mirror 7 for 5 mirror-view vision of tow components 18 on a tow vehicle and for vision of trailer components 19 on a trailerable vehicle with the tow vehicle being within hitching-steerable proximity to the trailerable vehicle. Optional U-shapes of the attachment configuration 1 and the mirror holder 5 can be provided for facilitating the line of sight 17 through them for these embodiments.

10 Thus, as illustrated the embodiment of the present invention employing a plurality of suction cups 2, preferably three (3), as the system fasteners enables the trailer hitch alignment mirror to be used on all types of vehicles, including, sedans, SUVs and pickup trucks as shown in FIGS. 3-5.

A new and useful universal trailer-hitch mirror system having been described, 15 all such foreseeable modifications, adaptations, substitutions of equivalents, mathematical possibilities of combinations of parts, pluralities of parts, applications and forms thereof as described by the following claims and not precluded by prior art are included in this invention.